



DOCKET NO.: 4414-D

PATENT

#26/Amer.F
Shaper
12/19/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

re patent application of:

Elco et al.

Serial No.: 09/208,962

Group No.: 2839

Filed: 10 December 1998

Examiner: N. Abrams

For: **LOW CROSS TALK AND IMPEDANCE CONTROLLED ELECTRICAL CONNECTOR WITH SOLDER MASSES**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington DC 20231

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Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed together with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and is responsive to the Office Action dated June 11, 2002 that issued in connection with the above-captioned patent application. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.114(d), the Request for Continued Examination should be treated as a request to withdraw the appeal and to reopen prosecution of the application before the Examiner.

Please note that a Notice of Appeal was filed in this case on September 10, 2002 and received by the Office on September 18, 2002. As the normal due date for filing an Appeal Brief was November 18, 2002 (two months from the date of receipt by the Office of a Notice of Appeal, *see* M.P.E.P. § 1206), a request for a one-month extension of time (through December 18, 2002) also accompanies the RCE.

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1, 2, 4-17, 41 and 42. Please add new claims 46-64, as follows:

46. 1 An electrical system resulting in reduced cross-talk, comprising:

2 first and second spaced-apart ground planes;